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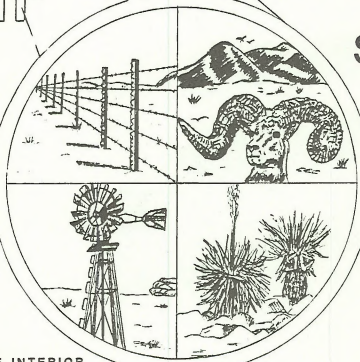
RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY



U S DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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ANNUAL UPDATE

FEBRUARY 1989

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BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
LAS CRUCES DISTRICT OFFICE
1800 Marquess St.
Las Cruces, New Mexico 88005

February 24, 1989

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is a copy of the fifth annual update of the Southern Rio Grande Planning Area Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) and the third annual update of the Las Cruces/Lordsburg Planning Area RPS. This document, which covers management strategy updates for both planning areas, summarizes the rangeland program for Fiscal Year 1986 and what is planned for rangeland improvement projects for Fiscal Year 1987.

If you have any questions or wish to express your views on these RPS updates, please do so within 30 days after receiving the document.

Sincerely,

T. Salt

Tim Salt
Area Manager
Las Cruces/Lordsburg Resource Area

Enclosure

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RANGELAND PROGRAM SUMMARY UPDATE

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INTRODUCTION

This Rangeland Program Summary (RPS) Annual Update will be the first to combine the old Southern Rio Grande (SRG) and Las Cruces/Lordsburg (LC/L) Planning Area into one document. Since all land use planning is now based on one planning area, it is felt that the two former areas should be merged into the one to prepare for the Resource Management Plan (RMP) that will begin in fiscal year 1989. There were no RPS annual updates published in fiscal year 1987. There have been many changes over the years since the first RPS documents for the Southern Rio Grande and Las Cruces/Lordsburg Planning Areas were published in 1982 and 1984, respectively. Some of the allotments have changed hands and rangeland monitoring has been completed or discontinued on some. This document will reprint the tables by county (Table 1) that were in the earlier publications so that the changes can be seen.

ALLOTMENT CATEGORIES

There have been three allotment category changes since the last RPS update was printed in 1986. Allotment number 3067 had the rangeland monitoring completed in 1986. The category was changed from an "I" to "C" since there was little potential for improvement under current technology and economics. Allotment number 5002 was changed from "M" to "I" Category due to resource conflicts and the potential for improvement. Allotment number 5008 was changed from Category "I" to "C" since there was little potential for improvement under current technology and economics.

Allotments were originally placed into one of three categories in order to set priorities for rangeland monitoring, expenditure of rangeland improvement funds and for concentration of management time and effort. These categories were M (Maintain), I (Improve), and C (Custodial) and were to determine the Bureau's approach on how allotments were to be managed.

The characteristics for the allotments in Category M are:

1. Forage utilization patterns are satisfactory;

2. Ecological condition class is mid-fair or better; and trend is improving (this statement about trend was only in the Las Cruces/Lordsburg RPS); and

3. There are no known resource conflicts resulting from present livestock grazing.

The characteristics for the allotments in Category I are:

1. The ecological condition could be any class, but is usually less than desirable; or

2. Known resource conflicts occur; or

3. The potential exists to improve rangeland condition; or

4. Utilization patterns or the degree of utilization are not desirable.

The characteristics for the allotments in Category C are:

1. Present grazing management will not result in further degradation of the soil or vegetation resources;

2. There are no known resource conflicts caused by present livestock grazing authorization; and

3. Rangeland condition is poor with little or no potential for improvement until more economically feasible treatments become available.

In some cases there were allotments with portions in one category and portions in another category. This situation has not worked and will be changed to put the total allotment into one category or the other.

DECISIONS

Table 1 shows the decisions that have been issued for the allotments. Current Bureau policy requires that a decision on the carrying capacity be issued within 5 years of the publication of the RPS. For those allotments in the Resource Area's old SRG Planning Area, this was required by 1987. Most of these allotments were issued an initial decision that meets this requirement. Those that were not, including those with Allotment Management Plans (AMPs), will be issued a decision in calendar year 1988. Decisions on allotments in the old LC/L Planning Area are due by 1989, and will receive an initial decision by that time.

RANGELAND MONITORING

Rangeland monitoring studies were conducted on 61 allotments (60 I Category including 21 AMPs, 1 M Category) in fiscal year 1986 and on 82 allotments (57 I Category including 21 AMPs, 4 M Category and 2 C Category) in fiscal year 1987.

Data collected on the Category I allotments include : Rangeland condition and trend; forage utilization; actual grazing use; and precipitation. There were two Category M allotments on which similar data were collected. On the other two Category M and on the two Category C allotments, the studies are less intensive. They include: A general allotment evaluation of forage conditions; base water inspections; and an analysis of the past 5 years active grazing use.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

There are 21 AMPs in the Resource Area that have been in effect since the late 1960's or early to mid-1970's. When the intensive rangeland monitoring effort began in the 1980's, these allotments were included in the Category I and rangeland monitoring studies were continued on them. However, the data collection was not as intensive as on the other Category I allotments and time and funding limited the supervision efforts. At this time, it is felt that these AMPs are due for major evaluation and analysis of their grazing systems,

if any, and of the data that have been collected over the years. Determinations should be made on whether to continue or change the AMP status, to modify the grazing system, and to conduct more or less intensive studies on these allotments. In 1986 one AMP, the Dan-P-Nel (No. 2010), was evaluated and revised. Some of these AMPs could be in Category M.

In fiscal year 1989, an effort is to begin that will last for the next 3 years. The remaining 20 AMPs will be evaluated and a decision made as to whether changes in the operating system or status are needed. Categories may also be changed.

RANGELAND IMPROVEMENTS

Funds totaling $212,800 were obligated in fiscal year 1986 for rangeland improvements in the Resource Area. The status of the fiscal year 1986 Range Betterment Fund projects is shown in Table 2 and those proposed for fiscal years 1987 and 1988 in Tables 3 and 4, respectively. Funding for the fiscal year 1987 projects is estimated at $243,180 and for the fiscal year 1988 projects at $188,200.

MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT

In fiscal years 1986 and 1987, wildlife monitoring studies were conducted on four allotments (Nos. 1078, 3064, 5003, 5013) and in four Habitat Management Plan (HMP) areas. These areas are the Florida, San Simon Cienega, Big Hatchet-Alamo Hueco, and Peloncillo HMPs. Studies include browse utilization transects, big game surveys, avian transects, fecal analyses, trend photographs and pace-point transects to measure changes in vegetation composition, and riparian analyses.

TABLE 1. CATEGORY I ALLOTMENT SUMMARY

ALLOTMENT NUMBER	ALLOTMENT NAME	PERMITTEE/LESSEE NAME	INITIAL DECISION ISSUED	RANGELAND MONITORING START:ENDED	PREFERENCE AUMS	PUBLIC LAND ACRES
		DONA ANA COUNTY				
3008	B&W Cattle Co.	Francis Burke	1984	1983:1988	1,020	10,931
3009	Lazy E	G.W. Burris	1985	1985:1988	3,891	32,851
3003	Corralitos Venture	Corralitos Venture	AMP	-	13,860	129,949
3014	W.F. Hayner	H. Cothern Lease	1984	1983:1988	252	3,720
3015	Alamo Basin	Tom Cooper	AMP	-	3,252	14,644
3023	Kilbourne Hole	C.E. Johns	1982	1982:1986	5,741	85,488
3026	L. Horner Est.	L.A. Horner Est.	AMP	-	288	3,030
3027	O.L. Smith	O.L. Smith	1984	1982:1988	564	3,795
3029	West Portillos	Thomas McKenna	1982	1982:1986	8,436	94,682
3032	Saddle Mountain	G.W. Burris	AMP	-	2,640	14,673
3036	H.J. Kane	Harry Kane	1984	1981:1988	1,080	7,100
3040	M.I. Rasmussen	K. Cohorn Lease	1982	1982:1984[1]/	636	8,963
3056	Afton	Robert Cosimati	1982	1982:[2]/	1,284	22,000
3058	Castle, W.N.	W.N. & J.A. Castle	AMP	-	828	13,615
3062	Castle, W.N.	W.N. Castle	-	-	756	14,750
3063	Reserve	J. Woodock Lease	1982	1982:1986	852	12,540
3065	Hille	A.R. Hille	1984	1983:1988	3,168	29,778
3068	South Well	Cloard Cluff	1982	1982:1986	2,580	22,967
3069	Kimball Place	Paul Tisler	-	- [3]/	1,184	8,320
5001	W.F. Blythe	W.F. Blythe	1982	1982:1986	544	15,630
5002	A.B. Cox Trust	A.B. Cox Estate	1986	1986:1988[4]/	1,504	15,180
5004	Anthony Gap	W.F. Blythe Lease	1982	1982:1986	432	8,298
5007	Jeff Isaacks	Jeff Isaacks	1982	1982:1986	1,905	23,146
5009	P. Price Estate	Paul Price Est.	1982	1982:1984[4]/	1,593	32,024
5013	Baylor Canyon	Hopkins and Miller	1982	1983:1988	1,716	12,476
		GRANT COUNTY				
1004	Anderson Ranch	Charley Anderson	1985	1984:1988	649	3,880
1007	Langford Keith	Langford Keith	-	1987:1991[5]/	3,360	10,092
1011	L. A. Conner	L.A. Conner	AMP	-	478	1,920
1022	John Kipp	Flying A Cattle Co.	-	-	636	4,560
1023	Crant Harper	Grant Harper	-	1987:1991	468	3,014
1036	Steeple Rock	Jim Lunt	-	-	552	2,495
1039	High Lonesome	Langford Keith	-	1987:1991[5]/	1,848	10,545
1047	Tom McCauley	Tom McCauley & Sons	-	1987:1991	4,158	15,095
1051	Redrock	Cuy Stillman	-	-	720	4,305
1081	The Racoon Place	Mike Coon	1986	1985:1989	1,464	10,357
1086	Burro Springs	Herb Bays	1986	1985:1989	3,276	16,954
2010	Dan-P-Nel	Dan Souzzi	AMP	-	876	7,795
2011	Andy Peterson	Clem Donaldson	AMP	-	1,788	13,353
2044	J M Smith	J.M. Smith	-	-	3,012	16,513
2054	South Well	Hurt Cattle Co.	-	-	1,056	4,267
4528	Joe Hooker	Mrs. Joe Hooker	-	- [6]/	780	3,620
4598	7XV Ranch	A T Cross Cattle Co.	-	- [7]/	60	399
		HIDALGO COUNTY				
1001	C. Adams & Sons	Allen Foster Lease	1982	1987:1991	459	6,690
1006	Bertoglio-Merrill	Bertoglio-Merrill Ranch	AMP	-	3,336	20,627
1008	Mary E. Butler	Mary Butler	-	-	1,161	5,411
1009	Cienega Ranch	Ted Hagen	1985	1985:1989	1,255	16,890
1010	Steins Mountain	Lance Williams	-	1987:1991	1,480	10,459
1012	C. Croom North	Cladys Croom	-	-	1,132	8,545
1015	Diamond A.	Royce Griggs	-	1987:1991[8]/	2,772	13,270
1016	Thomas Dixon	Thomas Dixon	-	-	288	2,400
1017	C.E. Dunagan	Clinton Dunagan	-	-	531	2,892
1019	Bessie Estes	Evans & Washburn	-	-	588	3,756
1020	E.W. Catanzaro	Cene Catanzaro	-	1987:1991	987	12,620
1025	Rainbow Wash	Andrew Peterson	-	1987:1991	1,344	12,112
1026	Cold Hill Canyon	W.D. Ranch, Inc.	-	1987:1991	1,380	11,626
1027	C.R. Jackson	George Jackson, Jr.	AMP	-	972	5,513
1030	Alfred Johnson	Alfred Johnson	-	-	1,152	9,058
1032	Fred Kerr Sr. East	Fred Kerr Jr.	-	-	628	6,768
1034	Rafter J L	James Lunt	-	-	1,852	17,714
1041	Muir-West	Farm Credit Services	AMP	-	4,776	33,054
1044	J.V. McCarty	J.V. McCarty	AMP	-	1,218	9,514
1048	Donald L. Frazier	Don Frazier	1984	1983:1988	1,750	11,143
1050	Richard Searle	Richard Searle	-	-	2,232	14,005
1055	R.M. Reynolds	R.M. Reynolds Est.	1984	1983:1988	996	5,960
1057	Swallow Fork Peak	Rouse Cattle Co.	-	-	894	5,583
1059	Mud Springs Ranch	Melvin Hudson et al.	1984	1984:1988	6,240	35,591
1060	A.M. Smith	Andrew M. Smith	-	-	738	6,406
1063	Andy Peterson	Andy Peterson	-	-	1,210	7,605
1066	Pac West	Cray Ranch Lease	-	-	1,056	3,840
1069	Wamel Ranch	Wamel Cattle Co.	1984	1984:1988	946	9,172
1070	X Triangle Ranch	Fred Telles	-	1987:1991	1,260	5,793

TABLE 1. CATEGORY I ALLOTMENT SUMMARY (continued)

ALLOTMENT NUMBER	ALLOTMENT NAME	PERMITTEE/LESSEE NAME	INITIAL DECISION ISSUED	RANGELAND MONITORING START:ENDED	PREFERENCE AUMS	PUBLIC LAND ACRES
		HILDAGO COUNTY (continued)				
1071	Weatherby Ranch	W.R. Smyer Lease	-	-	692	3,543
1073	H.J. Young	Herbert Young	-	1987:1991	2,760	11,624
1076	Robert Johns	Robert Johns	-	-	288	1,650
1078	Caprock Mtn. Community	Roger Pearce/Robert Johns	-	1983:1988[9/]	4,884	30,413
1510	Pac-West U-Bar	Jim Hurt Lease	-	-	4,548	19,896
1512	Drummond Hadley	Drummond Hadley	AMP	-	1,140	4,785
2022	Pac-West U-Bar	Jim Hurt Lease	-	-	7,608	30,006
2024	Pac-West Heard Ranch	Jim Hurt Lease	-	-	1,340	14,826
2027	Hatcher Ranch	Mahalon Everhart	AMP		13,869	115,720
2045	J.E. Smith	Sid Savage Lease	-	1987:1991[5/]	1,920	9,442
2055	Suckerville Draw	Joe Hervol	-	-	492	3,541
		LUNA COUNTY				
2002	W Johnson Est.	Johnney Johnson	1984	1983:1988	432	5,566
2004	Allen Borde	Allen Borde	AMP	-	3,612	26,955
2007	Nathan Crawford	Nathan Crawford	-	-	444	5,818
2008	Florida Foothills	Neal Crawford	-	-	516	5,403
2009	Hidden Valley Ranch	Jim Dines Lease	1985	1984:1988	564	5,330
2013	Burdick Hills	Alamo Ranch Co.	AMP	-	12,004	78,408
2014	Cedar Grove	Wanel Cattle Co.	AMP	-	3,264	24,676
2015	Edwards Place	Del Peterson	1985	1984:1988	1,032	4,720
2017	Flying W	Sid Savage Lease	-	1987:1991[5/]	3,612	20,917
2018	Hermanas Ranch	David Butler	1985	1984:1988	1,772	12,157
2019	Jarvis KIL Ranch	W.R. Smyer Lease	1985	1984:1988	1,200	15,540
2021	Blacktop	Carl Frazier	1985	1985:1989	538	3,080
2025	Florida Mtn.	Harry Dean	1985	1984:1988	1,983	7,980
2030	Mimbres Mtn.	Lois Rush	-	1987:1991	1,872	11,057
2032	W.R. Johnson	W.R. Johnson & Son	-	1987:1991	3,420	15,728
2033	Koenig Ranch	Koenig Farms	1985	1984:1988	2,424	24,535
2034	Mashed O	Tom Cooper	AMP	-	12,252	70,600
2035	May, Inc.	Ross May	1985	1984:1988	1,500	8,283
2035	Ross May	Ross May	-	1987:1991	1,848	13,005
2039	Joe B Nunn	Joe Bill Nunn	-	-	96	506
2040	McClure Ranch	Charles McClure	AMP	-	1,613	12,203
2041	Seventysix Draw	Farmers Home Admin.	-	-	456	7,180
2042	Bisbee Hills	Kenneth Foust	-	-	372	2,102
2043	Shelby Phillips	Shelby Phillips III	1985	1984:1988	1,702	15,114
2046	Mary Smyer	Mary Smyer	AMP	-	2,362	13,511
2053	POL West	David Herrmann	1982	1983:1984[10/]	1,032	11,726
3016	POL East	David Herrmann	1982	1982:1991[11/]	5,688	83,114
3024	Goodsight	John Brownfield	AMP	-	5,981	28,332
3028	Hyatt & Hyatt	Jim and Leedrue Hyatt	1985	1984:1988[12/]	10,428	54,955
3039	Border Ranch	1000 Springs Lease	1984	1983:1988	5,508	52,327

NOTES:
1/ Monitoring discontinued in 1984 due to livestock distribution problems.
2/ Final Decision denying permanent increase in WSA appealed; monitoring will continue indefinitely.
3/ Split from AMP No. 3015; studies will commence in 1989.
4/ Studies discontinued due to unfenced White Sands Missile Range.
5/ Condition and trend plots were established in January 1988; may be reread in fall 1988.
6/ Section 15 Lease allotment with wildlife concerns.
7/ Cooperative Management Plan with Soil Conservation Service; initial stocking rate to be established.
8/ Allotment Nos. 1045 and 1046 combined with No. 1015.
9/ Studies discontinued until allotment split by Gila River fences.
10/ Decision issued in 1984 setting initial stocking rate.
11/ Agreement signed August 1988 to continue monitoring until December 28, 1991.
12/ 5-year studies on Home Place only; Pole M portion is Category M.

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TABLE 2
STATUS AND TYPE OF RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1986 BY ALLOTMENT

Allot. Number	Category	Permittee Or Allotment Name	Type of Range Improvement	Status
1006*	I	Bertoglio-Merrill	Dirt tank fences Cross fencing	Carryover to FY 87 Carryover to FY 87
1010*	I	Lance Williams	Well	Dry Hole
1024	M	Janaloo H. Hough	Well	Dry Hole
1048	I	Don Frazier	Pipeline and storage Well	Completed Dry Hole
1050	I/M	Richard Searle	Fence and cattleguard	Completed
1059	I	Mud Springs	Pipeline	Awaiting water right
2040*	I	Charles McClure	Pipeline	Completed
3012	M	Dan Johnson	Pipeline	Completed
3028	I/M	Hyatt and Hyatt	Brush control	Completed

NOTE: *AMP

TABLE 3
RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1987 BY ALLOTMENT

Allot. Number	Category	Permittee Or Allotment Name	Type of Rangeland Improvement	Status
1006*	I	Bertoglio-Merrill	Dirt tank fences Cross fencing	Completed Completed
1078	I	Caprock Mtn. Comm.	Pipeline Fence	Completed Awaiting completion
1086	I	Herb Bays	Fence and cattleguard	Completed
3008	I	B & W Cattle Co.	Pipeline	Completed
3020	C	Beacon	Fence	Awaiting materials[1/]
3023	I	Kilbourne Hole	Pipeline Pipeline Fence Fence	Awaiting completion Awaiting completion Awaiting completion Awaiting completion
5007	I	Jeff Issacks	Fence	Phase I completed[1/]
5013	I	Baylor Canyon	Fence Brush control	Completed Completed

NOTES: *AMP
1/ Fences to be built in phases.

TABLE 4
RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1988 BY ALLOTMENT

Allot. Number	Category	Permittee Or Allotment Name	Type of Rangeland Improvement	Remarks
1009	I	Cienega Ranch	Pipeline	Rancher install
1078	I	Caprock Mtn. Comm.	Fence Pipeline Well (North Side) Well (South Side)	Delayed to FY 89[1/] Rancher install[1/] Drilled in FY 88[1/] Drill in FY 89[1/]
1086	I	Herb Bays	Pipeline Pipeline	Rancher install Delayed to FY 89
2043	I	Shelby Phillips	Fence Pipeline	Rancher install Rancher install
3059	M	Allen Beck	Well	Drill in FY 88
5013	I	Baylor Canyon	Erosion control	BLM contact

NOTE: 1/ These projects are part of the implementation of the Gila River Coordinated Resource Management Plan.

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